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Fashion Focus

A directory for fashion
CREATIVES

The Australian Fashion Week Newsletter Special

All the best fashion from Australia for Spring / Summer,
direct from the catwalks of RFW 2011

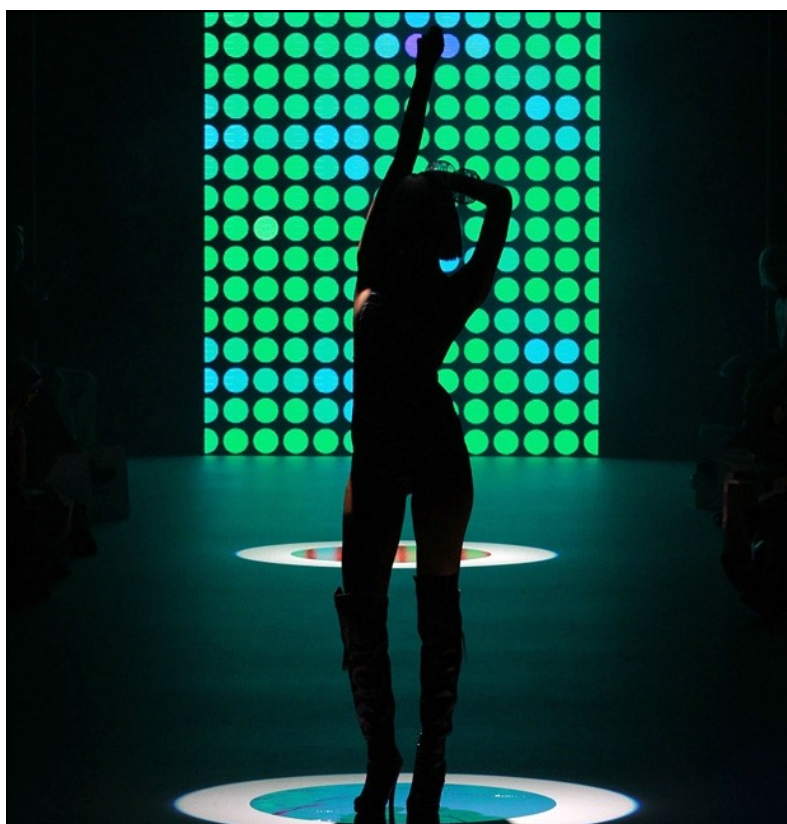
Kooney's waist effect—Taani Rolle

If there's one part of the fashion industry where Australia's designers punch above their weight, it's swimwear. Courtesy of being the world's biggest island, Australia has developed a beach culture that sees it design some of the best selling swimwear in the world, swimwear that effectively balances form with function, often with a more obvious sense of youth than elegance.

That sense of youth saw label Kooney open their spring 2011 showing at RFW in the shadows; highly stylised, blunt cut wigs were obvious as models pulled strong poses and little more than over the knee boots were discernable in the silhouette. When the lights did come up it was a collection inspired by Australiana and the Aboriginal 'dreamtime' that was laid out before us, the cuts inline with 2011's bikini trends.

If Kooney's next offering teaches you nothing else you should at least learn from it that as much as vintage swimwear is the statement style for the season, it needs to be carefully considered. Look over their collection and you'll see that where Kooney offered up a high waisted bikini brief in a solid colour it felt 'big' even on the slender frames of each model, whereas where high waisted briefs are worn with detail and prints the effect is reversed.

You can see all of Kooney's spring / summer 2011 / 2012 collection by visiting FashionFocus.com



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ZIMMERMANN SPRING/SUMMER 2011- HAILEE THOMPSON



It was at the point where the Sydney harbour bridge reaches the ends that RAFW— That the first official show began in the form of Zimmermann's spring 2011 showing.

Outside traffic swelled as drivers began their arduous trek into the city for a full days work ahead, yet none of that chaos was repeated within the car garage cum catwalk Zimmermann had opted to make the home of this collection's debut. In fact, backstage was strangely calm, amongst the calmest of catwalk backstage spaces I'd ever been to.

Was that a sign of the collection to come? Not quite. Serene some pieces might be considered, but this was a collection that more effectively imprinted hard lines, usually with tribal overtones, in one's mind.

A case of detail set against detail, the elements that Zimmermann have included in their spring / summer 2011 collection aren't all new. Some, such as those tribal features, feel so old that we may soon start considering them evergreens. Others like the lace, the impossible to ignore 70s resurgence, thigh scraping splits which command your gaze, and the digital cut outs are wholly on trend.

Seasonal fabrications weren't the only on-trend elements (the touches of futurism and a hippie revival were hard to miss) but fabric and finish is where you'll find the statements in this offering from Zimmermann.

You'll find these most obviously in the weaves with their sheer overtones but it was the use of linen, its frequent knots giving a look of Irish linen, that seemed most unique. And also smart; linen is oft overlooked much to the detriment of our wardrobes.



The swimsuit that outraged-Holly N Richards

The swimsuit, as you can see, features a print representation of Lakshmi, a Hindu goddess. Visual representations of deities are nothing new, when applied to swimwear though, they can certainly provoke an emotional reaction.

Since the image ran on **FashionFocus.com** our editors have been filtering out hundreds of comments about the piece, none of them pleasant. Largely aimed at the label and its designer Lisa Burke, they've ranged from statements of concern to mild slurs, and at the other end of the spectrum have also included curses and all out death threats.

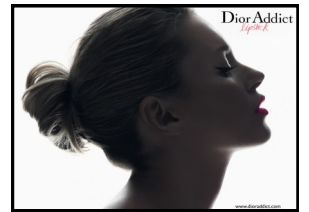
For their part, the Lisa Blue label has apologised for using the image of the Goddess Lakshmi in such a way. They have also confirmed that the swimsuit that has caused the outrage will be removed from their spring 2011 collection and shall never be produced or offered up for sale.

The full Lisa Blue collection from this year's **RAFW** can be seen by visiting **FashionFocus.com** and browsing through our photo gallery.

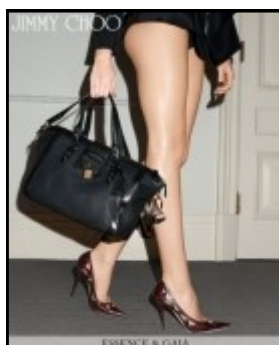
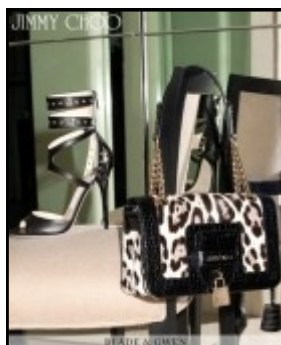


FASH - FOCUS

Indulge in our fash—focus, and be inspired by what's hot and what's new in the world of fashion at Sydney Fashion Week



More information available at FashionFocus.com

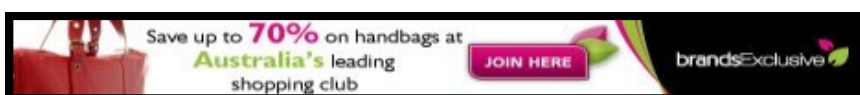


Jimmy Choo déjà vu— Lissi Santos

Ask many of the worshippers at the church of Jimmy Choo and they'll tell you the brand can do no wrong. But alas: this pre-fall 2011 collection leaves me dazed in an unsatisfied state of déjà vu.

While trends like clogs aren't completely worn out and there are some worthwhile buys to be had, the Jimmy Choo offering fails to give us any really new interpretations to play with. And for a luxury brand like Choo that ability to push forwards is paramount.

As it stands the camel suede pieces - over the knee boots and a structured satchel handbag - are the pieces to look out for.



A HAIRSTYLE VARIATION— ORLANDO PITA

With cutting edge designs and *va-va-voom* styling. Tuesday's Urban Upbringing parade required an equally commanding hairstyle to top it all off. One style they turned to, a variation on the braided topknot, ending instead in a cluster of teased-out spiral curls.

Shown here on model Lauren Aitken (represented by Scene

models), it's a style you can replicate by following our braided topknot how-to by tying up the ends into a bunch instead of creating a bun in the final steps.

You can see more photos of the Urban Upbringing pre-party at Fashion Focus.com, including a front-view of the hairstyle detailed above.



Winners of the Moroccan Hair Oil pack for June 2011.....

- ◆ Mary Hardy, N.S.W
- ◆ Brooke De Agrela, W.A.

